

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 4:52 PM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Denise Holder; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; KGOU; KOCO; KOKH; Ktok; KTOK; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily
Subject: Allegation of Open Meeting Act Violation

City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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On June 9, 2009, an Executive Session was held to “discuss the acquisition of real property associated with the Rock Creek Road Overpass Project”. A complaint was made to the Cleveland County District Attorney in the weeks following the meeting that the Executive Session violated the Open Meeting Act. The District Attorney asked that the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation look into the facts surrounding the complaint. Upon the completion of the OSBI investigation, the District Attorney recused from the matter and the Payne County District Attorney was appointed by the Attorney General to review the allegations and the results of the OSBI investigation.

The City was recently notified of the decision by the Payne County District Attorney (see attachment) upon his review of the allegations and all of the related documentation. District Attorney Hudson found that there was no prosecutorial merit to the allegations of an Open Meeting Act violation. Specifically, he found that:

- The language of the agenda item informed the public of what would be discussed in Executive Session
- A discussion of funding sources associated with purchasing real property is a natural and normal aspect of purchasing real property
- Evidence does not exist to support a criminal violation of the Open Meeting Act

The Council values open government and strives to conduct its business in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. It is gratifying to have its efforts validated by the results of this investigation.